




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

QPAC, Theatre

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): The Premier's announcement this morning means that the government has reached an important milestone in delivering a new performing arts venue for Queensland. Last year the Palaszczuk government announced a new \$150 million theatre for the Queensland Performing Arts Centre. Today I echo the Premier's excitement in announcing that architects Blight Rayner and Snohetta have been announced as the winning design team. This team has extensive experience in designing major theatres and entertainment venues in Australia and around the world. Their concept design responds to the once-in-a-generation expansion opportunity for QPAC, transforming it into Australia's largest performing arts centre and supporting the continued growth of performing arts here in Queensland.

QPAC is a place of great cultural and heritage significance for Queensland. The design for the new theatre, with inspiration drawn from the Brisbane River, will create a place of its own identity while respecting the legacy of Robin Gibson's original design. The final concept design also recognises first nations peoples and the cultural significance of South Bank, with inspiration in the design drawn from the Brisbane River as an important meeting place and a place for sharing stories.

QPAC welcomes audiences of more than one million people each year and programs more than 1,000 performances. When fully operational, this performing arts venue has the potential to welcome an estimated 300,000 attendees per year and an additional 260 performances per year. The new theatre will help us meet this enormous demand for quality performing arts and is the next step in supporting the state's future growth. It will also provide another way for Queensland's arts organisations to showcase local talent and tell unique stories.

This important project is about much more than arts infrastructure. It is about acknowledging the important role the arts plays in Queensland's identity, it is about securing Queensland's share of the \$86 billion the arts contributes to the Australian economy and it is about supporting the more than 80,000 people who are part of the creative workforce in Queensland.